

wide at the base, suddenly tapering at the apex. Pedicellariæ of one kind only, and very sparingly developed; the larger pincer-formed kind wholly absent. Greater to lesser radius as 2-3 to 1. A large specimen measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in its greatest diameter.

We have found this species living gregariously between tide-marks at the Out-Skerries, Shetland; and Mr. D. Robertson has sent us specimens which he took under similar circumstances at Oban.

The species of *Asterias*, both British and foreign, allied to *A. rubens* are extremely difficult. We are unable to make up our minds whether we have only one very variable form or many species. We have described the two species distinguished by Forbes, *A. violacea* and *A. hispida*, but for the present feel compelled to reserve giving a positive opinion with respect to the value of their distinctive characters. Müller and Troschel, and also Sars, unite the former with *A. rubens*. We have other closely allied forms in our seas, which scarcely fall under the description of any species here described.

XIV.—Description of *Diphlogæna Hesperus*, a new Species of the Family Trochilidæ. By JOHN GOULD, F.R.S.

Male. Crown of the head brilliant, changeable, metallic blue and fiery red, the latter colour occupying the sides of the forehead, and the former running up the centre from the base of the bill to the crown, where it dilates into a broad patch; hinder part of the head and the nape changeable brown and bronze; back (as far as the rump, shoulders, abdomen, and flanks) green; throat and chest rich metallic golden green, with a small spot of violet in the centre of the former; primaries and secondaries rust-brown, with darker tips; upper and under tail-coverts and the forked tail deep cinnamon-red, the feathers of the latter tipped and edged near the extremities with bronzy green; thighs buff; bill straight, long, tubular, and black; feet brown. Total length $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches, bill $1\frac{1}{2}$, wing $3\frac{1}{4}$, tail $2\frac{1}{2}$.

Habitat. The province of Cuença, in Ecuador, where it procures its food from the flowers of the *Oreocallis grandiflora*, a tall shrub figured in Humboldt and Bonpland's folio work, vol. ii. p. 179, tab. 139.

This new species of Humming-bird is very nearly allied to *Diphlogæna Iris*, but differs in the more fiery colour of the face, the greater intensity of the blue occupying the centre of the crown, in the green of the body extending to the tail-coverts both on the upper and under surface, in the tail-feathers being all tipped with bronzy green, and in the tail itself being less deeply forked.